(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time schedule for completion of the airport expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) State Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated actions to acquire 583 hectares of land on the northern side of the existing Chennai Airport and hand over the same to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of a new International Terminal Building, a parallel runway, other infrastructure etc. Some affected residents have filed a Writ Petition against the land acquisition proceedings in the High Court of Madras and the matter is presently subjudice.

Speedy clearance of outstation cheques

*555. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a mechanism for speedy clearance of outstation cheques by banks;

(b) if so, how Government propose to facilitate the process; and

(c) whether any amendment to the banking laws is contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to afford immediate credit in respect of outstation cheques upto Rs. 15,000/ - subject to certain condition such as the bank being satisfied about the proper conduct of the customers' account etc. Inter-city clearing and proposed Cheque Truncation system are steps for faster clearance of outstation cheques.

(c) Government is contemplating new legislation which, *inter alia,* would lay down operational and technical standards for various payment systems.